

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image data compressing apparatus comprising:

an image data compressor for compressing image data input thereto at first and second compression rates to produce first and second compressed data, respectively;

an approximate-expression table including a plurality of different sample data sizes and a plurality of approximate expressions which correspond to said plurality of different sample data sizes, respectively;

an approximate-expression selector for selecting an approximate expression from said plurality of approximate expressions, said first approximate expression corresponding to a first sample data size nearest a data size of said first compressed data among said plurality of different sample data sizes, each of said plurality of approximate expressions indicating a change of a data size in response to a compression rate; and

a compression rate determining unit for determining said second compression rate by (1) changing a compression rate of said selected approximate expression, (2) calculating a second sample data size with the changed compression rate and (3) determining the second compression rate to be the rate corresponding to the calculated second sample data size within a predetermined threshold range of a target data size.

2. (Previously Presented) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of approximate expressions is a polynomial.

3. (Previously Presented) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said approximate-expression table includes coefficients of said polynomial.

4. (Currently Amended) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of different sample data sizes is not greater than the target data size.

5. (Original) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

a memory for storing said input image data,

wherein said image data compressor compresses a portion of said image data stored in said memory at said first compression rate to produce said first compressed data.

6. (Previously Presented) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said portion of said image data stored in said memory comprises a plurality of portions of said image data.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of compressing image data, comprising the steps of:

compressing image data at a first compression rate to produce compressed data;

providing a plurality of different sample data sizes and approximate expressions which correspond to said plurality of different sample data sizes, respectively;

determining a first sample data size from said plurality of different sample data sizes which is nearest a data size of the compressed data;

selecting a first approximate expression from said plurality of approximate expressions which corresponds to said first sample data size;

changing a compression rate of said first approximate expression;

calculating a second sample data size with the changed compression rate;

determining a second compression rate to be the rate corresponding to the calculated second sample data size within a predetermined threshold range of a target data size; and

compressing the image data at the second compression rate.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of approximate expression is a polynomial.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of different sample data size-sizes is not greater than the target data size.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said step of compressing the image data includes the sub step of compressing a portion of the image data at the first compression rate.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the portion of the image data includes a plurality of portions of the image data.

12. (Previously Presented) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of approximate expressions are non-linear approximate expressions.

13. (Previously Presented) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein each of said plurality of approximate expressions is one of a quartic polynomial, a logarithmic polynomial or an exponential polynomial function.

14. (Previously Presented) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of approximate expressions are non-linear approximate expressions.

15. (Previously Presented) The image data compressing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein each of said plurality of approximate expressions is one of a quartic polynomial, a logarithmic polynomial or an exponential polynomial function.